



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 19, 2005

CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan
202-224-6167

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AWARDS OVER \$100,000 TO RHODE ISLAND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has notified U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee of five grants awarded to Rhode Island for various rural development projects. The awards total \$100,854 and will be distributed to the City of Central Falls, the Prudence Island Water District, and the Rhode Island Rural Development Council.

“Rhode Island’s blend of urban and rural areas are part of what makes it such a unique state. I am grateful for this series of awards given to Rhode Island, which will improve community facilities, aid rural businesses, and protect the environment in our rural areas,” Senator Chafee said. “The Protection of Rhode Island’s rural areas not only supports the local economy, but also ensures the continued protection of our state’s precious open space,” he continued.

Of the five grants awarded, three Community Facility Grants will be given to the City of Central Falls. Central Falls will receive \$42,853 for the purchase of five replacement police vehicles, to partially update their aging fleet. The purchase of equipment packages to customize each vehicle will also be financed with this award. Central falls has a 55-member Police Department, serving a population of approximately 19,000. Another grant totaling \$11,921 will be used to purchase an Alarm Monitoring System as well as an Air Filtration System for the city’s Fire Department.

Additionally, a third rural development grant will be used to partially reimburse the city’s Department of Public Works for a recently purchased backhoe and dump truck, used for snow removal. The \$19,080 award will be applied to equipment that was purchased and

used to remove snow from the school parking lots, assuring that schools could reopen as soon as possible and minimize the number of lost school days.

The Prudence Island Water District (the District) will receive a Water and Waste Grant totaling \$15,000. With this award, the District will conduct a Preliminary Engineering Report and an Environmental Report. Serving approximately 88 residents, the District is a newly formed entity established to purchase and operate the private water system currently servicing the Island.

Finally, the Rhode Island Rural Development Council has been given \$12,000 for technical assistance to explore Rhode Island's market potential for, and the feasibility of, processing native beef, sheep, and poultry locally. Currently, there are no such processing facilities available to Rhode Island farmers and ranchers, and there are no such products being marketed to local consumers.

###